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GERMAN FOOTBALL LEGEND BECKENBAUER NO MORE

Franz Beckenbauer, who won the World Cup both as player and coach and became one of Germany's most beloved personalities with his easygoing charm, has died, a German news agency reported on Monday. He was 78. As a player, he reimagined the defender's role in soccer and captained West Germany to the World Cup title in 1974. He was the coach when West Germany won the tournament again in 1990 | P15

Karnataka HC bans all mining activities near KRS reservoir

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Monday banned all mining activities within a radius of 20 km from the KRS dam in Mandya district, expressing serious concern over the possible threat to it because of the use of explosives.

The ban applies even to existing mining licenses or those operating in the area in view of the permission granted by the high court in earlier cases. The court noted that it had permitted mining within the 20-km radius earlier as the safety measures to be taken under the Dam Safety Act, 2021, were not brought to its notice.

Though the government advocate submitted that a study on the threats to the dam due to mining will be completed within six months, the court said it has not fixed any deadline for it. Experts should take a decision on conducting experimental blasts to assess the threats to the dam, it added.

A division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Krishna S Dixit passed the interim order by taking suo motu cognisance of the possible danger to the dam due to mining while hearing a petition by CG Kumar, a landowner from Chinakurali village in Pandavapura taluk of Mandya district. The petitioner questioned the restrictions imposed by the Mandya DC on mining in May 2023. P5

JUSTICE RESTORED FOR BILKIS AS SC NIXES REMISSION

Says Gujarat govt usurped powers of Maha counterpart; lashes out at convict for fraud

Bilkis Bano

SUPPRESSION OF FACTS

- Convict Shah did not tell SC's Rastogi bench that he had approached the Maharashtra government for remission
- CBI had given a negative recommendation
- Special judge of CBI too gave negative recommendation
- SP, Dahod, Gujarat had given a negative recommendation
- The District Magistrate, Dahod, Gujarat had given a negative recommendation

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday restored justice to the horrific gang-rape victim Bilkis Bano — seven of whose relatives were also murdered in the post-Godhra riots — by quashing the Gujarat government's remission of sentence to 11 life convicts in the case.

"The state of Gujarat acted in tandem and was complicit with the convict," the court said in its verdict and directed all 11 convicts to surrender within two weeks. The judgment was authored by Justice B V Nagarathna on her behalf and also for Justice Ujjal Bhuyan.

The court held that the Gujarat government was not competent to pass the remission orders. The court said only the government of the state where the offender was sentenced is competent to consider an application for remission. It faulted convict Radheyshyam Shah for abusing the process of law while seeking remission.

Shah had initially approached the Gujarat High Court in 2019 for remission. The HC observed that he should approach the Maharashtra government instead. His second such application before the Gujarat HC was also dismissed in 2020. Shah approached the Maharashtra government with a similar request. Besides, the CBI and the Special Judge (CBI), Mumbai had given a negative recommendations in his case.

The convict then moved the SC without disclosing the CBI opinion and his approaching the Maharashtra government. A bench had on May 13, 2022 directed the Gujarat government to consider the plea for Shah's for premature release, holding that the government of the state where the offence had taken place has the jurisdiction to decide the application. Nullifying the order, the court said it was obtained fraudulently.

Seat-sharing talks with AAP positive, says Cong

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE first formal seat-sharing talks among INDIA bloc parties kicked off on a positive note on Monday with the Congress and AAP deciding to fight the upcoming Lok Sabha elections together in Delhi and Punjab.

Both parties termed the first round of talks 'positive and fruitful', and said they will meet again to finalise the pact.

Sources said Monday's meet was focused more on the nitty-gritties of the alliance in various states and the seat-sharing formula is likely to be decided in subsequent meetings.

The meeting was attended by Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely, and the party's National Alliance Committee (NAC) members Mukul Wasnik and Ashok Gehlot. The AAP delegation included Delhi cabinet ministers Atishi Marlena and Saurabh Bharadwaj, and Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Wasnik said deliberations were held on seat-sharing as well as other aspects of the upcoming elections, and they will come up with the final formula soon.

"We had a very good meeting. Senior AAP leaders were sent for discussions with us on behalf of Arvind Kejriwal. The NAC formed by the Congress president held discussions with AAP leaders and a final decision will be taken later," said Wasnik.

AAP leader Bhardwaj said: "We are absolutely positive that seats of INDIA bloc will be finalised soon".

daCunha/AB/925

EXPRESS READ

ED raids Malur Congress MLA

Kolar: Enforcement Directorate on Monday raided the residence of Malur Congress MLA KY Nanjegowda at Kommanahalli in Malur Taluk of Kolar district, and entities linked to him, as part of a money-laundering investigation | P4

3 fans carrying Yash's cutout electrocuted

Actor Yash consoles the family of one of the deceased at Suranagi village in Gadag district

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

THREE youngsters were electrocuted when the 25-foot metal cutout they were carrying came in contact with live wires at Suranagi village in Lakshmeshwar taluk of Gadag district on Sunday night.

The incident occurred when they were trying to erect the cutout of Sandalwood actor Yash in the village to mark his birthday.

The deceased have been identified as Hanumant Harijan, 21, Murali Naduvinamani, 20, and Naveen Gaji, 19, from Suranagi. Manjunath Harijan, Prakash Myageri and Deepak Harijan, who suffered burns, are under treatment.

According to sources, 10 youngsters planned to celebrate Yash's birthday, which was on January 8, and got the cutout done. When some of them lifted the cutout, it touched the live wires. Three of them died on the spot. Their last rites were performed on Monday morning.

Meanwhile, Yash visited the houses of Murali, Naveen and Hanumant on Monday evening and consoled the members of their families.

Addressing reporters, he said, "I always request my fans to be responsible and not to indulge in such acts. We will be happy if they support us by extending their wishes."

Asked if compensation will be given to the families of the deceased, Yash said, "This is not the right time to discuss such matters. He will get details of the families of the deceased and act accordingly.

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